AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(cancelled)

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the selection and degree of differentiation between the one or more characteristics of the two patterns is arranged such that areas where emboss points of the emboss pattern on the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric are substantially in register with lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll are smaller than 25 mm^2 to avoid the occurrence of visible unlaminated patches in the form of blisters occurring in the resultant laminate.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the selection and degree of differentiation between one or more characteristics of the two patterns is arranged to control the size of the areas in the resultant laminate containing groups of adjacent points in each of the emboss pattern on the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll and which are in registration, in order to avoid the visual appearance of unlaminated patches occurring in the resultant laminate.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll each have a respective pitch therebetween and wherein the one or more selected characteristics of the two patterns include the pitch between the emboss points of the emboss pattern on the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric or lamination points of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the pitch of the emboss pattern on the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the pitch of the point lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination points of the lamination pattern each have respective axes of alignment extending at a respective angle to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll and wherein the one or more selected characteristics of the two patterns include the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll are orthogonal to each other.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the axes of alignment of the emboss points of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric are varied with respect to the axes of the lamination points of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the one or more selected characteristics of the two patterns include one of the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the percentage bond area of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the percentage contact area of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the one or more selected characteristics of the two patterns include one of the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and the shape of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the shape of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the shape of each lamination point of the lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the one or more selected characteristics include one of the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and of the size of each lamination point of the point lamination pattern of the single lamination pattern calender roll.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the size of each emboss point of the emboss pattern of the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric is varied with respect to the size of each lamination point of the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll prior to lamination.

Claims 15-16 (Cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, further comprising providing a thermoplastic adhesive layer between the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material during lamination.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer is provided as a coating on one of said nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the coating is substantially continuous but provides discrete adhesive bonding points between the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and non-embossed polymer material at the lamination points during lamination.

20.(cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is a thermoplastic polymer and wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll is a thermobonding calender.

22. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, including passing the thermoplastic adhesive layer and the nonwoven spunbonded thermoplastic polymer fabric through the thermobonding calender such that they are caused to melt together to form an integrated bond.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the non-embossed polymer material is a thermoplastics polymer and is also caused to melt to form part of the integrated bond.

Claims 24-29 (Cancelled)

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the spunbonded polymer fabric comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and polyamide.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the non-embossed polymer material comprises a thin film.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the thin film comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and polyamide.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, further comprising providing a further layer between the non-woven spunbonded polymer fabric and the non-embossed polymer material.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the further layer is one of a microfibre layer and a continuous thin film.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 89, wherein the single lamination pattern calender roll has a rotational axis, wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric has oppositely facing surfaces of which a first oppositely facing surface is presented to the single lamination calender roll and has an emboss pattern which is non-symmetrical about a line transverse to the rotational axis of the single lamination pattern calender roll, and wherein the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over prior to lamination to present to the single lamination calender roll a second alternative oppositely facing surface with an emboss pattern having different pattern characteristics to that presented when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is not turned over.

36.(cancelled)

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the turned over embossed pattern of the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is sufficiently different to the non-turned over embossed pattern to provide under the same lamination process conditions a different pressure distribution across the laminate.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the difference in pressure distributions leads to perforation of the laminate when the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric is turned over and non-perforation when it is not turned over.

Claims 39-88 (Cancelled)

89. A method of laminating a first material having an emboss pattern formed thereon to a second material using a point-lamination pattern, said method including,

providing a first material comprising a nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric having a minimum weight of approximately 50g/m² and having a plurality of emboss points that are formed under heat and pressure and that form an emboss pattern having raised or depressed formations in the surface of the fabric,

providing a second material comprising a non-embossed polymer material,

the minimum weight of approximately 50g/m² of said nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the emboss pattern having said raised or depressed formations in the surface of the fabric normally causing the occurrence of unlaminated patches in the form of blisters in areas of the resultant laminate where the emboss points of the emboss pattern and lamination points of the lamination pattern were in register with each other during lamination,

flattening and tensioning the first and second materials to reduce the tendency of the first and second materials to crease prior to feeding the first and second materials to a single lamination pattern calender roll of which the lamination pattern has a plurality of lamination points,

operating the single lamination pattern roll at a substantially constant speed of rotation,

feeding the flattened and tensioned first and second materials to the single lamination pattern calender roll rotating at a substantially constant speed;

bringing the first and second materials together at said single lamination pattern calender roll, and laminating the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric first material with the emboss pattern and the non-embossed polymer second material to one another using the single lamination pattern calender roll,

feeding the resultant laminate to a finishing core onto which the resultant laminate is wound;

operating the finishing core at a speed of rotation that matches the speed of rotation of said single lamination pattern calender roll;

making use of or controlling interaction between the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll by selecting and differentiating one or more characteristics of the two patterns whereby to control, during lamination, the amount of point mis-registration between the emboss pattern on the nonwoven spunbonded polymer fabric and the lamination pattern on the single lamination pattern calender roll, whereby

the resultant laminate has a laminated area in which the first and second materials each have substantially the same surface area and a visible interference pattern formed of visible emboss points of the emboss pattern and visible lamination points of the lamination pattern, and

the occurrence of visible unlaminated patches in the form of blisters in the resultant laminate is avoided.

90. (cancelled)